

ME/ADW

29 April, 1970

Mrs. Hilary Spurling,
Spectator,
99 Gower Street,
London W.C.1.

Dear Hilary,

Thank you so much for telephoning me last week, I was very moved by your thoughtful concern.

Would it be possible for you to have lunch with me on Tuesday, 12 May*? Predictably there is to be a meeting very shortly after that when the choice of judges will be made and I would be very grateful knowing how you feel, if you would be willing to make any suggestions as to who they might be.

The categories, so far, have been loosely:

Literary Editor - Chairman
Author
Academic (Literature)
Well-known personality with literary interests
Publisher/Bookseller (i.e. book trade figure)

It is a formidable task for anyone, and the choice, even assuming the people might be both willing and available will never be perfect. But as we have both agreed vehemently, it is the most important decision taken in connection with the Prize throughout the year, except that of the winning book and this perhaps determines that choice anyway.

I put your suggestion to Bookers that literary editors might well be approached for their opinion in the choice of judges and they very willingly agreed to this as a wise course, so I am hopefully confident that your suggestions will not be in vain. I have not yet approached anyone else, because as your idea, it seemed right to come to you first.

Forgive me for putting this arduous task upon you. I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours,

Marilyn Edwards